

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 53, 59, 60, 69-102, 104, 106-108 and 110 directed to a species non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 53, 59, 60, 69-102, 104, 106-108 and 110 been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combination of, a docking closure having first and second flexible bands with respective first and second closure elements on the inner surfaces of the bands and third and fourth closure elements on the top sides of the bands, wherein the closure elements are either male projections of female cavities, or wherein a fifth closure element is provided on the outside of the second band is not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON NIESZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-thu 10-3.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason K Niesz/
Examiner, Art Unit 3751

/Gregory L. Huson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3751